

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 USPS-01 AID-05 CU-02 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1213

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 8645

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB JA

SUBJ: ZENTEI REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE TO TRAIN STAFF MEMBER FOR
OVERSEAS WORK

REF: A. TOKYO 8045; B. TOKYO 8644

SUMMARY: ZENTEI (SOHYO'S POSTAL UNION) OFFICIAL TOLD ASST
LABATT HIS UNION WILL CHOOSE AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING STAFF MEMBER
FOR EVENTUAL ASSIGNMENT TO PTTI SINGAPORE OFFICE AND ASKED IF
USG COULD FACILITATE LABOR TRAINING IN US FOR NOMINEE. WE
WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ZENTEI (JAPAN POSTAL WORKERS' UNION; 205,000 MEMBERS;
SOHYO, ICFTU AND PTTI AFFILIATE) DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND
INTERNATIONAL DEPT SADAU KUROSAWA IN MEETING WITH ASST
LABATT (REFTEL A) SAID MID-JULY ZENTEI CONVENTION WILL APPROVE
EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO SELECT A UNION MEMBER
FOR TRAINING AND ONWARD ASSIGNMENT TO PTTI SINGAPORE OFFICE.

2. ZENTEI PLANS TO SELECT SOMEONE FROM POSTAL MINISTRY
HEADQUARTERS, SINCE THAT IS ONLY SOURCE OF ENGLISH-
SPEAKING UNION MEMBERS. PERSON SELECTED WILL BE
REQUIRED TO RETIRE FROM POSTAL MINISTRY AND
BECOME FULL-TIME ZENTEI STAFF MEMBER. BEFORE DISPATCH
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TO SINGAPORE PTTI OFFICE, KUROSAWA WOULD LIKE NOMINEE
TO STUDY LABOR ORGANIZATION AND CONDITIONS IN AMERICA
AND/OR ENGLAND. KUROSAWA ASKED WHETHER USG COULD SPONSOR
ENROLLMENT IN HARVARD TRADE UNION PROGRAM OR OTHER

TRAINING.

3. ZENTEI OVERTURES (REFTEL A AND B) CLEARLY REFLECT EFFORT TO EXPAND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES BEYOND STALE MOSCOW CIRCUIT TO INCLUDE GREATER CONTACT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN ICFTU AND AFL-CIO UNIONS. WITHIN SOHYO ZENTEI IS PRIME PROPONENT OF CONTROVERSIAL ICFTU POLICY THAT BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST BLOC LABOR CENTERS SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED TO MULTI-LATERAL SETTINGS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT, AFL-CIO AND US PTTI AFFILIATES' THOUGHTS CONCERNING PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ZENTEI STAFFER. EMBASSY QUESTIONS WHETHER HARVARD TRADE UNION PROGRAM FITS THIS REQUIREMENT BECAUSE OF CONCENTRATION OF HARVARD CURRICULUM ON US-STYLE CRAFT UNIONISM, PARTIALLY TO THE EXCLUSION OF MORE DIRECTLY RELEVANT PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ABOUT OTHER SHORT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS WHICH MAY BE BETTER SUITED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE UNION EXPERIENCE. ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE INTERNSHIP WITH AFL-CIO PTTI AFFILIATES.

5. AT THIS TIME EMBASSY FEELS IT CANNOT OFFER FUNDS TO SPONSOR TRAINEE, BUT WE WILL OFFER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IF DEPT AGREES THIS IS WORTHY PROGRAM. WE WILL OF COURSE KEEP DEPT INFORMED IF KUROSAWA PRESSES US FURTHER.
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